

**From:** Vince Pratt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/17/01 1:43pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has been found guilty. It is my opinion that the Proposed Final Judgment will do little or nothing to stop the anti-competitive practices from Microsoft. It is my belief that Microsoft should also be held accountable for the security and reliability of it's products. Here are a few examples of actual issues I take with Microsoft.

In Windows 2000 operating system software of course comes with the Internet Explorer web browser software and Outlook Express email software. On a recent occasion I wanted to remove Outlook Express from the computer as I did not want to use it and because of security (virus) concerns. I would like to point out the Microsoft has a Control Panel to Add/Remove programs to/from the computer. The end user has no option during install or by using Add/Remove Programs to remove Internet Explorer or Outlook Express. One might think well since I don't want Outlook Express I'll just manually throw the program into the trash. Well that will not work. The operating System will not allow the end user to remove Outlook Express. Below is a link to the Microsoft document that describes the steps necessary to remove Outlook Express. I would like to point out that 80% of computer users would not be able to complete the steps described.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;q263837>

I link to a Slashdot article from 12/12/2001:

<http://slashdot.org/articles/01/12/12/1357232.shtml>

Which links to the original article here :

<http://www.eetimes.com/story/OEG20011211S0054>

These articles speak about Microsoft now entering into a new market. DVD players. It seems Microsoft now wants to have it's own proprietary CODEC (Compressor/Decompressor) installed into every DVD player that exists. My question is why is Microsoft able to 'set standards' when we have committees of experts and academics that develop and set 'industry standards'. This shows how Microsoft operate. There are perfectly viable standards out there right now that work on all computing platforms. This will harm anyone who does not want to run on the Microsoft platform.

I would just like to have my opinion known. I believe that the Proposed Final Judgment will do nothing to help protect consumers or other technology companies. I believe that the states proposal does a great deal more to punish Microsoft. After all they were found guilty and are supposed to be

punished for their behavior.

Sincerely,

Vince Pratt  
Network Administrator  
LeMoyne-Owen College  
Memphis, TN 38126

901-942-6252 Voice  
901-775-7600 FAX